

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 019935

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ANGOLA:

- A. GULF WANTS TO HAND ESCROW MONEY TO NIGERIANS

GULF'S MANAGING DIRECTOR IN LAGOS BRIEFED AMBASSADOR EASUM ON DISCUSSIONS HELD JANUARY 21-23 AMONG REPRESENTATIVES OF GULF, MPLA AND NIGERIA. DURING THE TALKS, THE NIGERIANS REQUESTED THAT THE \$100 MILLION NOW IN ESCROW BE TRANSFERRED TO THEM FOR SAFEKEEPING AND SUBSEQUENT TURNOVER TO THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT EVENTUALLY RECOGNIZED AND ADMITTED TO THE OAU AND THE UN. SINCE GULF HAD ALSO BEEN PREPARED TO SUGGEST THIS TRANSFER, THE MANAGING DIRECTOR FELT GULF'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS WOULD APPROVE THE IDEA WHEN IT MEETS
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FEBRUARY 10.

- B. GUYANA GEARING UP FOR ANGOLA AIRLIFT

REPORTS FROM AIRPORT AND DOCKSIDE SOURCES INDICATE EXTENSIVE CUBAN AIRCRAFT AND SHIP ACTIVITY IN GUYANA.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: IT APPEARS THE CUBANS, WITH THE ACTIVE COOPERATION OF PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM AND THE

GUYANA DEFENSE FORCE, ARE SETTING UP A REFUELING BASE FOR THE ANGOLA AIRLIFT. HOPE FOR GUYANESE RESTRAINT ON ANGOLA SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN IN VAIN, AND THIS CLOSE CUBAN-GUYANESE COLLABORATION COULD BE TERMED A DE FACTO ALLIANCE. (CONFIDENTIAL) LAGOS 985, 1/26; GEORGETOWN 165; PORT OF SPAIN 192.

2. ITALY: ONE MORE TRY

AFTER THE FAILURE OVER THE WEEKEND OF THE PROPOSED COALITION GOVERNMENT, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE A LAST DITCH ATTEMPT TO FORM AN ALL DC INTERIM GOVERNMENT. MORO HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO CONSULT WITH THE OTHER PARTIES.

-- --THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE GIVEN UNCONDITIONAL
-- SUPPORT TO THE IDEA.

-- --THE REPUBLICANS WILL NOT VETO IT BUT WILL MAKE A
-- FINAL DECISION ONLY AFTER THEY KNOW THE PROPOSED
-- GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM.

-- --A SOCIALIST SOURCE CLAIMS DE MARTINO WILL SUPPORT A
-- DC GOVERNMENT, IF IT PRESENTS AN ACCEPTABLE ECONOMIC
-- PROGRAM.

EMBASSY COMMENT: DE MARTINO DOES NOT SPEAK FOR HIS ENTIRE PARTY AND SOME SOCIALIST FACTIONS WON'T GO ALONG. IF THE IDEA FAILS, THE GENERALLY EXPECTED NEXT STEP IS FOR PRESIDENT LEONE TO REJECT MORO'S RESIGNATION AND SEND HIS DC/REPUBLICAN CABINET LIST TO PARLIAMENT FOR A VOTE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENCE. SUCH A STEP WOULD PROBABLY BE A PRELUDE TO EARLY ELECTIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) ROME 1289, 1/26

3. PANAMA: BACK TO BUSINESS AS USUAL

AFTER NEGOTIATIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF BUSINESS PROTESTORS, THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE SAYING THE TEN PANAMANIAN EXILED RECENTLY FOR SUBVERSIVE

ACTIVITY COULD RETURN IF "DOMESTIC CONDITIONS AND THEIR CONDUCT ABROAD MAKE PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE POSSIBLE." THE BUSINESSMEN, INTURN, PUBLISHED A COMMUNIQUE URGING A NORMALIZATION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, THUS APPARENTLY ENDING A BUSINESS SHUTDOWN PROTESTING THE EXILE ACTION.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE TWO COMMUNIQUE FORM THE BASIS FOR A TRUCE BUT FALL SHORT OF A SETTLEMENT OF THE UNDERLYING CONFLICT BETWEEN THE DOMESTIC LEFT AND THE LOCAL BUSINESS

COMMUNITY. (CONFIDENTIAL) PANAMA 584, 1/26

4. LEBANON: OPTIMISM AMID THE RUBBLE

EMBASSY BEIRUT REPORTS THAT SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM MET WITH LEBANESE LEADERS AND ASSURED THEM THE SYRIANS WILL WITHDRAW FROM THE LEBANESE SCENE ONCE A POLITICAL SOLUTION IS ON THE TRACKS. THE EMBASSY NOTES THAT THE LEBANESE MAY AT LAST BE OUT OF THE STORM RATHER THAN MERELY IN THE EYE OF THE HURRICANE. NEVERTHELESS:

-- --CHRISTIAN PARTICIPANTS REMAIN UNHAPPY AND HAVE NOT
-- AGREED ON THE SPECIFICS OF REFORM.

-- PRIME MINISTER KARAME'S PLAN FOR AN EXPANDED CABINET
-- OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WILL PROBABLY NOT BE
-- INSTITUTED FOR TWO OR THREE MONTHS.

- --PRESIDENT FRANGIE REFUSES TO RESCHEDULE HIS VISIT
-- TO DAMASCUS UNTIL THE CEASEFIRE IS FIRM.(CONFIDENTIAL)
BEIRUT 825, 1/27. KISSINGER

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